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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,818	08/13/2001	Leland F. Wilson	9050-0013.24	9897
23980	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
REED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP			CHISM, BILLY D	
1400 PAGE MILL ROAD			ART UNIT	
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1654

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,818

Applicant(s)

WILSON ET AL.

Examiner

B. Dell Chism

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-14 and 17-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-19 and 29-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-14,20-28 and 41-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 18 January 2005 has been entered. Claims 1-2, 5-14, 20-28 and 41-44 are currently under consideration.

2. The rejections and/or objections made in the prior office action filed 29 March 2004, which are not explicitly stated below, in original or modified form are withdrawn.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action. Applicants' arguments in the Request for Continued Examination filed 18 January 2005 will be addressed to the extent that they pertain to the present grounds of rejection.

Priority

3. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is acknowledged. However, the parent application upon which priority is claimed fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 1-2, 5-14 and 20-28 and 41-44 of this application. The current application does not possess literal support for the claimed method of using VIP. Without literal support in the parent application, one must look for inherent support, and again the support is lacking in the specification. All applications in the claimed path of priority are drawn to a large genus of

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vasoactive agents and VIP agonists, but no claims or disclosure is presented for the method of using VIP.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-2, 5-14 and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 23-28 are rejected for the indefinite recitation of non-elected subject matter, wherein "agonists thereof and combinations thereof" were not elected.

Claims 2, 5-14 and 20-22 are rejected for depending from rejected claims.

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), discloses the factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. They are:

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1. the nature of the invention: The nature of the invention is of a pharmaceutical for the treatment of vaginal atrophy and vaginal pain during sexual intercourse, or to keep from happening.

2. the breadth of the claims: In the instant case, applicants are claiming a composition that is an agent for “preventing” vaginal atrophy and vaginal pain during sexual intercourse.

3. the state of the prior art: The state of the art does not teach the absolute prevention of vaginal atrophy and vaginal pain during sexual intercourse, merely that the symptoms of the dysfunctions, such as muscle tone and tissue health, and dyspareunia (specification page 42, line 18-22), are may be treated.

4. the predictability or lack thereof in the art: Any claim to the prevention of vaginal atrophy and vaginal pain during sexual intercourse is highly unpredictable given the current state of the art.

5. the amount of direction or guidance present and the presence or absence of working example: Applicants state that the invention may be used in the prevention of occurrence of symptoms (specification page 10, lines 5-10) but does not provide any working examples or guidance as such.

6. the quantity of experimentation needed and the level of the skill in the art: and Because neither the prior art nor the current application provide sufficient guidance to one of even ordinary skill in the art as to the prevention of vaginal atrophy and vaginal pain during sexual intercourse, the quantity of experimentation for such a claim is considered to be undue and thus, not enabled.

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8. This rejection was reapplied since the applicants reintroduced amendments that had removed corrected this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-2, 6, 11-12, 14, 41 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,031,002 (Wysor *et al.*)(cited in Applicants' 1449) teaches treatment methods for female sexual dysfunctions. Wysor *et al.* teaches methods for enhancing sexuality in a female having a clitoris comprising topically administering VIP to the clitoris and surrounding areas. The administration can be via ointment, gel, foam or spray, and liposome (see column 3 lines 45-64; column 4 lines 42-67; column 5 lines 3-8).

11. This rejection is reinstated since applicants have reinstated claim limitations that are anticipated by the reference. Applicants should note the "Priority" statement above, wherein the examiner has pointed out why the instantly claimed invention does not share priority to the parent applications and patents from those applications. This point of priority was discussed and realized in the previous prosecution.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 1-2, 5-14, 23-28 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wysor *et al.* (cited above) and Ottesen *et al.* 1985 (Regulatory Peptides, Vol. 11, pages 83-92). Wysor *et al.* teaches the topical application of VIP to the clitoris and surrounding tissues via different delivery systems, but does not teach the combinatorial use of VIP with steroids in topical use for the treatment of female sexual dysfunction. Ottesen *et al.* teach the use of steroids in affecting VIP (page 83). Ottesen *et al.* teaches that the sensitivity effects for VIP was significantly higher in the presence of progesterone and oestrogen. Furthermore, Ottesen *et al.* teaches that the “sensitivity for and potency of VIP on the relaxation of uterine muscle was significantly higher” when the steroids were used.

The combination of Wysor *et al.* and Ottensen *et al.* would be obvious to of ordinary skill in the art wherein Ottensen *et al.* teaches the beneficial effects of using steroids in the area of the vagina for increased sensitivity and potency of VIP, and wherein Wysor *et al.* teaches the beneficial effects of topically applying VIP to the vaginal area for increased sexual response. The claimed invention wishes to use the combination for the very reason for which the combination would be obvious and that is to increase the responsiveness of the vaginal area regarding sexual dysfunction in females. The result-effective adjustment of particular conventional working conditions (e.g., times of administration, amounts, delivery devices, etc.)

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is deemed merely a matter of judicious selection and routine optimization which is well within the purview of the skilled artisan.

Art of Record

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (these reference are cited in applicants' Information Disclosure Statement).

Levin, R.J. 1991. VIP, Vagina, Clitoral and Periurethral Glans – an Update on Human Female Genital Arousal, Exp. Clin. Endocrinol. Vol. 98, No. 2, pages 61-69: teaches treatment of female dysfunctions of arousal by subepithelial injection.

Conclusion

15. No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to B. Dell Chism, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 08:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell, PhD can be reached on (571) 272-0974.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more

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information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Dell Chism', written over a horizontal line.

B. Dell Chism
PATENT EXAMINER